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INFORMATION REPORT

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CIRCULATE

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Eisenhuetten Kombinat Ost (EKO) Fuerstenberg VEB (VVB EFV)

a. On about 4 or 5 November 1951, blast furnace No. 1, which had only started normal production on about 20 October 1951, (1) had to be taken out of service, as it was in danger of exploding after ventilation difficulties at the exit of the spare gases, located at the top of the furnace, had badly damaged it. Moreover, the interior lining of silicate bricks and chamotte had been constructed too hurriedly and had never undergone proper periodic checks during the building period.

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it is expected that the blast furnace at EKO will be run on brown coal coke by January 1953 at the latest. [redacted] tests involving 250 tons at VEB Maxhuetten Unterwellenborn and a further test at VVB Mansfeld with 250 tons of coke made from brown coal had proved successful, with the result that work for the erection of a coke plant at VWP, Mueckenberg will be speeded up.

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Ore supplies from Krivoi Rog, USSR, continue to reach the plant according to schedule, so that all bunkers are now full and additional storage sites have had to be found elsewhere, causing unloading and transportation difficulties. No ore is at present being used because of the difficulties described in paragraph a above.

2. VEB Edelstahlwerk Doehlen

The electric furnace No. 3 is now being erected at this plant. The new large shed, intended for the new thin sheet steel rolling mill which will be set up at this plant in 1952, has been finished. It is hoped that additional supplies of electricity will become available at this plant when the Niederwartha hydroelectric power station (now under reconstruction) has been completed.

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3. VEB Walzwerk Finow

The project involving the building of 4 strip-rolling mill trains at this plant has been abandoned.

4. VEB Walzwerk Willy Becker, Kirchmoeser

This rolling mill plant (thick sheet and profiled steel) is reported to be one of the few DDR steel plants that is working well. It is being fully exploited and is working three shifts per day. Some armor plate sheet steel rolled at this plant is being supplied direct to a Soviet Army repair shop located in a bricked-off section of the plant's main building. The furnaces at present in operation here are the following:

- a. One billet furnace, capacity 10 metric tons per hour, for the profile rolling mill.
- b. One slab furnace, capacity 20 metric tons per hour, for the thick (8 mm and more) sheet steel rolling mill.
- c. One annealing furnace with a capacity of about 15 metric tons per hour.
- d. One new slab furnace, similar to the one listed under paragraph b above is now under construction and will result in increased output by the thick sheet steel rolling mill.
- e. Four new spare gas generators were built at this plant by Messrs. Pintsch(2) during 1950. (Diameter 2.50 meters)

5. Eisenhuettenkombinat West Calbe/Saale VEB (VVB EFW)

- a. Professor Saeuberlich, fnu, of VEB Maxhuetette, Unterwellenborn, has now been made responsible for this plant in place of Dr. Baake, fnu, of the Zentrales Konstruktionsbuero (ZKB), Leipzig.
- b. Early in November 1951, Havelka, Deputy Minister for the Smelting Industry in Czechoslovakia,(3) and Dr. Ing. Steiner, head of the Wittkowitz steel plant(4) visited HV Metallurgie to inspect the low shaft furnaces at Calbe with a view to ordering 20 for Czechoslovakia. The number of these furnaces to be installed at Calbe has been reduced to 10. The purpose of Steiner's visit was to inspect the damage to the blast furnace at the EKO and to make recommendations for repairs.

6. VEB Maxhuetette, Unterwellenborn

- a. The failures at both Fuerstenberg and Calbe (see above) have caused HV Metallurgie to rule that this plant must make up for the resultant loss of crude iron. It has now been confirmed that at least two blast furnaces will have to be closed down and re-lined in January 1952, but so far the management has lacked courage to inform the HV of this. The Minister of Heavy Industry(5) however, was to be informed about this matter on his visit to the plant on 26 November 1951.
- b. One new 1,000 metric ton crude mixer is to be built at this plant in early 1952.

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- c. One new trial low shaft furnace, nicknamed the 'Kleine Max', is being built in order to permit additional experiments to be carried out with this type of furnace.
- d. One 20 metric tons per hour trio furnace (sic) is at present being rebuilt.
- e. One new slab furnace with a capacity of 20 metric tons per hour is being built at present.
- f. A complete new rolling mill, estimated to be a broad strip mill, has arrived at the plant and work on its erection is now under way. It is suspected that this valuable equipment has arrived through devious channels (as yet not known) [redacted] All its frames as well as its rollers and motors have been seen at the Maxhuetten. 50X1-HUM

(VVB Mansfeld Kombinat

[redacted] the 50X1-HUM

constructional office at the Leuna chemical works has been given the task of drawing up plans for processing furnace slag produced at Mansfeld. [redacted]

[redacted] cobalt played an important part in this project. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] 1,600 tons of cobalt were to be delivered to the DDR from Czechoslovakia. [redacted]

[redacted] the Leuna project for processing cobalt [redacted]

[redacted] was an important feature in atomic research. 50X1-HUM

[redacted]

Comments:

- (1) This information does not conform with an explosion on 18 October [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- (2) Possibly Julius Pintsch K.G. located in Fuerstenwalde, Berlin, Duesseldorf, Nuernberg and Muenchen.
- (3) Dr. Jaroslav Havelka is listed as the Czechoslovak Minister of Manpower.
- (4) The Vitkovice Ironworks in Kuncice, Czechoslovakia.
- (5) On 5 November 1951 the structure of the Ministry of Heavy Industry was changed and a new Ministry for Smelting and Mining established.

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